MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
Established 1881

Volume 138, Number 8

Thursday, April 5, 2018

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 44°F | 27°F
Sunny

FRI: 46°F | 37°F
Chance rain and snow

SAT: 40°F | 28°F
Chance rain and snow

Saudi crown prince visits MIT Media Lab, secrecy and rigid security surround his arrival

Protesters call for MIT, Reif to cancel visit, citing Saudi involvement in Yemeni humanitarian crisis

By Jessica Shi
NEWS EDITOR

Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, visited MIT March 24 as one of the stops on his first official tour of the U.S.

"His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit today in Greater Boston focused on nurturing ties between the private sector and academia of the two nations," according to a press release by the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia's Information Office.

The prince's visit was in conjunction with the second annual Innovation to Impact forum, which was held at the Samberg Center in E52 March 24 as part of an "ongoing collaboration" between MIT and several Saudi Arabian entities, specifically King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), and the General Authority of Small and Medium Enterprises.

"Saudi Arabia and MIT have a longstanding collaborative relationship focused on subjects of mutual interest," Kimberly Allen, director of media relations and deputy director of MIT News, wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

This includes "creating opportunities for post-doctoral Saudi women scientists and engineers to study at MIT" and "supporting the development of sustainable energy," Allen continued. "Saudi Aramco is a founding member of the MIT Energy Initiative."

Leaders at the forum included MIT President L. Rafael Reif and Saudi Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources Khalid Al-Falih. Collaborative agreements on various research initiatives, such as those Allen listed, were signed by the participants and "inaugurated by the Crown Prince," according to the press release.

The Saudi Embassy also tweeted that the prince toured an innovation exhibition at MIT that showcased

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COURTESY OF MALTE AHRENS

Many Media Lab event attendees accompanied Mohammed bin Salman as he exited the building.

Bertschinger to step down as ICEO

Ed Bertschinger, the Institute Community and Equity Officer, is stepping down after five years in the role. As ICEO, Bertschinger fostered discussions about sensitive issues and improved the quality of and access to data around many measures of diversity at MIT. A search has begun for a replacement, who will be selected from current MIT faculty.

IN SHORT

Ty Dolla $ign will perform at SpringFEST April 27, the UA Events Committee revealed Tuesday night. Tickets are now available at tickets.mit.edu.

CPW 2018 is Thursday, April 12 through Sunday, April 15.

Drop date is April 26.

Summer housing applications opened March 25. Students who submit after April 23 will automatically be placed on a waiting list.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

Food insecurity working group proposes low-cost grocery store

Other recommendations include improving Costco shuttle system, establishing contracts with grocery delivery services

By Kaitlyn Hennacy

The Food Insecurity Solutions Working Group (FISWG) proposed a low-cost grocery store as one solution to aid students who face food insecurity in a recent report posted on the Division of Student Life website in late March.

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 and Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson created the FISWG to investigate the issue of food insecurity on campus. The group met throughout the fall semester and IAP to review survey data, consult members of the MIT community, and finally come up with a proposal.

In the 2017 Student Quality of Life Survey, about 10 percent of students indicated that they went to bed hungry at least once in the previous week due to a lack of money for food.

However, the FISWG found that the financial barrier is just one part of a complex issue.The report states that "some students miss meals because they are working or involved in activities and do not have the time to seek out affordable food options on or around campus."

The FISWG also noted that the distance between dining halls and main campus is another factor that limits accessibility to food.

"[Students are] making a choice. Do I take 15 minutes to take a break from work to get food, or do I continue working? And because many of the food options are on the west side of campus, students are making the decision that 'I'm just going to stay and work rather than get food.'" David Randall, chair of the FISWG, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

Lack of education about cooking affordable, healthy meals is another problem that contributes to food insecurity, according to the report. "When you talk to students and you ask them, 'Do you know how to cook for yourself?' and then 'Do you know how to cook for yourself economically and nutritiously?' students say that's hard for them. So you hear about students who cook ramen or mac-and-cheese. They cook less nutritious food options because they're cheaper," Randall said.

The report suggested a low-cost grocery store located on cam-

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An update on Designing the First Year course

Waitz: student input critical to this 'really difficult organizational change process'

By Jocasta Manasseh-Lewis
STAFF REPORTER

In Designing the First Year (DFY) at MIT, a new class this semester, students and faculty are tasked with restructuring the first-year experience.

The aims of the class are to "understand the needs for the first year and what should we change to make it better; to apply rigorous design frameworks to help generate really good ideas for change, both big and small; and to engage the community in that discussion along the way," Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz said in an interview with *The Tech*.

Last fall, Waitz organized a team of 20 people who met twice a week in order to design the class. Waitz commented that he focused on incorporating student input into this "really difficult organizational change process."

Waitz compared the class's efforts with the efforts of a typical faculty committee — the usual way of approaching this kind of institu-

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MIT launches task force to address the future of work

MIT's new Task Force on the Work of the Future seeks to understand and shape the job market for the next generation of employees.

The task force is a research team of over twenty students and faculty members from both engineering and social science fields. Their research is intended to address the changing nature of the job market due to rapid technological development, according to a press release from MIT News. This is in response to public concerns about many of today's jobs potentially being outsourced to machines and computers due to advances in artificial intelligence.

The task force also aims to help shape the interconnected development of technology and the workplace, explained task force Chair David Mindell. They not only want to predict how the job market may change with new technologies, but also help to shape their development in a way that preserves the value of human input and allows for socially conscious job evolution.

This conscious shaping of the future of work will also involve adjusting educational techniques to prepare students for the new kinds of jobs they may encounter in the future, according to their website.

The initiative is projected to last two and a half years, MIT News reports. The task force plans to provide updates to the Institution through periodic conferences and presentations, as well as publish a book when the research has concluded.

—Christina Warren

SELECTIVE MORALIZING

MIT's silence on war and exploitation reveals that convenience is central to its ethics. **OPINION, p. 4**

YAAS QUEEN

"With drag, you can be who you want to be. You can create your own narrative." **ARTS, p. 6**

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

Wes Anderson's take on the ruff life. **ARTS, p. 8**

GREAT SCOT!

Craig Thorburn '18 on starting Burns Supper and more. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 5**

COMMITMENT ISSUES?

Look no further. Auntie Matter on polyamory. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 5**

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WEATHER

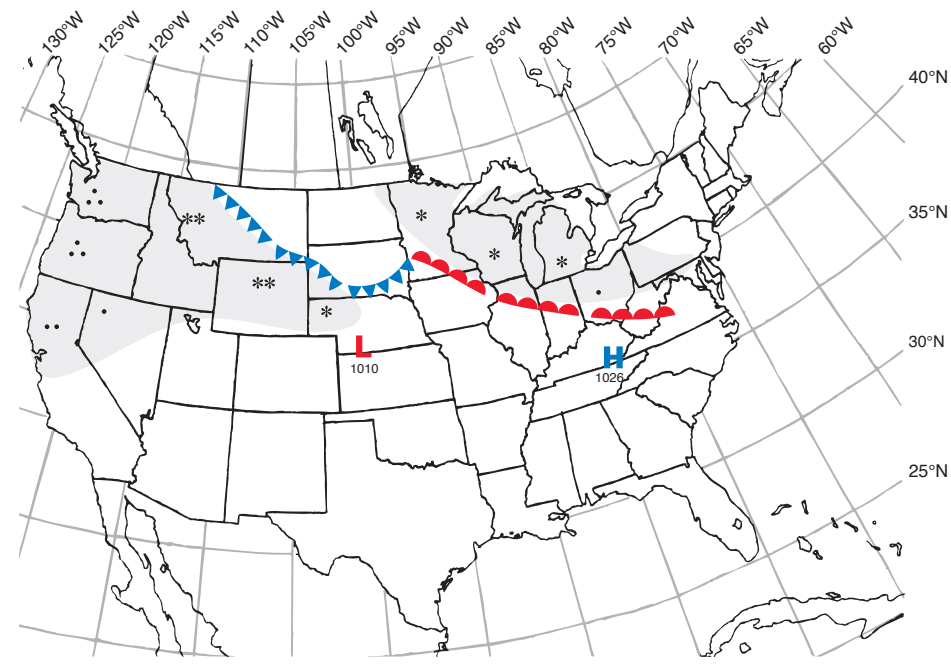
Winter still holding on

By Jordan Benjamin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After a period of several beautiful, warmer days, the weather has again taken a colder turn. A strong cold front pushed through the eastern U.S. yesterday, bringing yet another cold airmass down from Canada into the continental U.S. With the cold air come chances of wintry weather. The most significant chance of winter weather is Saturday, when a low pressure system sliding east through the mid-Atlantic states and offshore could bring several inches of snow to either the mid-Atlantic or the Northeast. However, as it is April, it would be difficult to get accumulating snow during the daytime. It may not seem like it yet, but spring is certainly on our doorstep. Boston has not recorded more than 1" of snow after April 10 since 1996. We'll have to wait and see if spring arrives next week and cranks up the CPW weather machine.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. Breezy. High around 44°F (7°C). West winds at 15–25 mph.
Tonight: Clear. Low around 27°F (-3°C). Winds west at 10–20 mph.
Tomorrow: A chance of rain or snow showers. Little to no accumulation expected. High around 46°F (8°C). Low around 37°F (3°C). Winds south at around 10 mph.
Saturday: A chance of rain and snow. High around 40°F (4°C). Low around 28°F (-2°C).
Sunday: Mostly Sunny. High around 42°F (6°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, April 5, 2018

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough		Snow	Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	*	•	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	**	••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*
		Heavy	⁂	∴	

MIT and Cambridge police patrol Media Lab

MAHI SHAFIULLAH—THE TECH

Protesters gathered outside Lobby 7 the day before the prince was to visit MIT.

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"selected industrial innovations produced by several Saudi companies and universities."

Aside from limited official publicity, secrecy and rigid security have surrounded Mohammed's visit, which took place at the Media Lab shortly after the forum.

Allen wrote in her email that "when circumstances indicated the Crown Prince's desire to visit MIT" during his time in Greater Boston, "MIT agreed to host him."

Regarding further details, Allen emphasized that the Saudi Arabian embassy is "the entity to officially speak for and describe the movements of the Crown Prince."

The embassy did not answer *The Tech*'s calls.

Prof. Rob Miller, East Campus head of house, sent an email March 23 notifying EC residents that a "high-level visitor" would be on campus the next day for an event at the Media Lab across the street.

"There will be multiple vehicles in the area and extra security measures, including people on the roof of 70 Amherst Street. MIT Police are involved in the planning and aware of the measures being taken," Miller wrote. "This is just a heads-up, there's no cause for alarm."

The Tech went to the Media Lab the morning of March 24, before the event started. "No Parking" signs were put up throughout the street in the front and side of the building.

Staff members wearing jackets that said "Residential Life and Dining" (likely Allied Barton security workers) were being briefed on the protocol for the day, which included no cell phone usage and only admitting people who had specific forms of identification; the "VIP" would arrive around 2 p.m., according to the person leading the meeting.

One of the attendees who arrived at the Media Lab early, a postdoc at KAUST, told *The Tech* that the event, which he said was an "exhibition between MIT and Saudi Arabia," would start at 11 a.m. or 12 p.m. and that Mohammed was expected to visit around 2 p.m.

But when *The Tech* sought additional confirmation from event staff, they declined to comment on Mohammed's visit or even on what the event at the Media Lab was.

When *The Tech* returned to the Media Lab in the early afternoon, at least one and at times three or more staff members stood at each entrance of the building.

A resident of EC told *The Tech* he witnessed numerous security details patrolling the area over the course of the afternoon. This included a combination of MIT police, Cambridge police (including at least two officers who were heavily armed), secret service agents, and several black-clothed persons with binoculars on the roof of 70 Amherst Street.

The Tech did not witness Mohammed entering the Media Lab, but the resident saw and photographed Mohammed exiting at 5:33 p.m.

MIT and Harvard students, as well as local activist groups such as Massachusetts Peace Action, led a protest against Mohammed's visit outside Lobby 7 March 23.

The protest attracted between thirty and fifty participants, who held signs with slogans such as "No Saudi War Criminal at MIT" and chanted "What do we want? Peace. When do we want it? Now."

A Change.org petition started by an organization called Just Foreign Policy also gathered more than 6,000 signatures. The petition called for MIT to cancel Mohammed's visit, alleging that the Saudi bombardment and blockade of Yemen essentially amounted to using starvation as a war tactic. Students submitted the petition to Reif's office March 23.

The Yemen Civil War is an ongoing conflict between the government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi and opposition groups, including the Houthi movement and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saudi Arabia, together with eight other Arab states and with the logistical support of of the U.S., the U.K., and France, is intervening in the war on behalf of Hadi, according to BBC's overview of the crisis.

The war, which passed its 1,000th day mark in December, has created "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world," according to a joint statement from the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"The crown prince has committed countless war crimes that have been documented by human rights groups, and so I think it's an embarrassment for MIT to be associated with him and to welcome him here this weekend — on the third anniversary, in fact, of the war," Shireen Al-Adeimi, a student at Harvard's Graduate School of Education and one the organizers of the protest, told *The Tech*.

Al-Adeimi was born and raised in Yemen. "We have people back home, friends and family, who can't find adequate food, who can't find clean water. ... It's getting harder and harder for people to survive every day. Already people are dying in the tens of thousands," she said in a follow-up interview with *The Tech*.

Al-Adeimi also emphasized that they were not just protesting the fact that someone from Saudi Arabia was coming: rather, Mohammed is Saudi Arabia's Minister of Defense and thus "the architect of the war in Yemen."

Jonathan King, an emeritus professor in MIT's biology department, also spoke at the protest. "The notion that this institution should support an absolute monarchy by the crown prince is really scandalous," King said.

Ryuga Hatano '18, another protester, was unhappy about the lack of transparency around the visit. "[Reif] at least owes students and the community an explanation for exactly what the meeting is about," Hatano said in an interview with *The Tech*.

Whitney Zhang contributed reporting.

SwipeShare program may also be expanded

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pus as a solution that could give students convenient, healthy options with affordable prices.

Mark Hayes, director of campus dining, said in an interview with *The Tech* that a working group is aiming to open a low-cost grocery this upcoming fall semester. The group includes MIT students and collaborates with the Undergraduate Association and the student group Class Awareness, Support, and Equality (CASE). The store could alleviate some of the concerns stemming from the closing of Star Market and the high pricing at LaVerde's.

Hayes differentiated the low-cost grocery from a food pantry that relies on donations. "[Food pantries] tend to have non-perishable items because they don't want to handle refrigeration and freezers. We're looking to do more fresh food from a nutrition standpoint," Hayes said.

According to Hayes, collaboration with MIT's dining vendor will let the grocery store purchase bulk foods at a low cost and sell them to students at the lowest possible prices.

Aside from the low-cost grocery store, other suggestions by the FISWG include improving the shuttle system to nearby grocery stores like Costco and establishing contracts with delivery services — such as Instacart and Amazon Fresh — to make their services more affordable to students.

"We're going to act on most of [the suggestions] because I thought that their proposals were very reasonable," Nelson said in an interview with *The Tech.*

In helping students who face food insecurity, the FISWG also sees SwipeShare, a program that allows students to donate guest meal swipes to other students in need, as playing a big role. "I think SwipeShare has been a tremendous success," Randall said. "We've had roughly 1,000 donations, real donations. We've given about half of those out."

Peter Cummings, DSL executive director for administration, said in an interview with *The Tech* that SwipeShare will be modified so that students can donate regular meal swipes in addition to guest swipes, which matters because MIT's new meal plans for next year do not all include guest swipes. "We're going to come up with a way to do that so that SwipeShare continues and thrives," Cummings said.

MIT's chapter of the national student organization Donor to Diner (D2D) is also working to raise awareness of on-campus food insecurity and resources for students. "Because when you normally think of food insecurity, you associate it with the homeless or people in Third World countries. A lot of people don't associate it with students and so that's one thing we're trying to raise awareness of," Varsha Sridhar '21, a member of D2D, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

CASE is also working to implement food pantries in dorms. They recently installed pantries in Random Hall, East Campus, Burton-Conner, MacGregor, and New House.

Bettina Arkhurst '18, the CASE food insecurity head, explained in an interview with *The Tech* that the pantries will contain donated food from CASE, and that students can add food as well. If the trial run goes well, the pantries will continue through the school year and expand into all dorms.

A major goal of CASE is to reduce the stigma around seeking help. "What we think others will think of us holds us back," Arkhurst said. "Overall, we approach it [the food pantry] with this idea to make it as easy and low barrier as possible for people to get the food they need."

Any students who have feedback or questions about the food insecurity programs that CASE organizes can email food-case@mit.edu.

Some students criticize DFY class structure

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tional change at MIT. "If you add up all of the TAs, the teaching team, and the students, we are at around 600-700 people-hours per week. By comparison, the typical faculty committee might work several hundred hours per year," he added.

On the Vice Chancellor's website, DFY is described as "design-intensive," "team-based," and "project focused." The students are tasked with identifying the various stakeholders involved in the first year experience at MIT, and using design methods from various MIT schools to present their recommendations to the senior administration.

The class is composed of workshops and weekly lectures, in which students learn about the design process and educational policy. The structure of the class is described on the syllabus as "two spirals [that] will expose the students to a full cycle of observation, framing, concept generation, design, and validation."

One of the main projects the class has been working on is a needs assessment of stakeholder groups, such as the students in living groups.

"Many departments across MIT might approach [this class] differently; that's one of the strengths of having a diverse set of instructors. What's unique about this is that the design challenge is for a complex socio-technical problem," Bryan Moser '87, senior lecturer of system design and management and one of the co-instructors, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

Student Lab Assistants (SLAs) invited to the teaching team by Ian Waitz contributed to the initial design effort. Currently, they aid the teaching staff and provide mentorship to the students.

"A lot of people have a vision of how MIT is supposed to run. What you end up discovering when you talk to a lot of different people is that there are so many different paths and so many different experiences," Edward Fan '19, one of the SLAs, said in an interview with *The Tech*. "Honestly, I have to give huge props to Ian for coming up with this structure. This idea of giving students the opportunity to really shape the MIT experience is very unique."

Another SLA, Alexa Martin '19, expressed excitement about the class opening up new discussions about the first year at MIT. Martin is the current UA Vice President and next year's UA President. Kathryn Jiang '20, current UA secretary and next year's UA Vice President, is also an SLA.

"This class is exciting because it gets students involved who generally wouldn't be involved in student government; it's tapping into another group of people who wouldn't have been tapped into otherwise," Martin said.

However, the structure of the class has also been criticized by some students.

"There is a clear dissonance between the advertised expectations of the course and the reality of the course," Kelvin Green II '21 and Mimi Wahid '21 wrote in a Google Document, which was sent by Green in an email to the class March 1 and later forwarded to *The Tech*.

Green and Wahid commented that the course seemed to be more rigid than expected, with students being asked to interview ill-defined stakeholder groups and then create "a needs assessment within an existing structure that has been provided for us," contrary to their hopes of "re-designing" the first year.

The students in the course also did not receive adequate preparation or instruction "on educational design and have instead been taught more about product design," Green and Wahid continued.

Both Green and Wahid have since dropped the class.

The course "didn't seem valuable because it didn't feel like I was contributing to something that would have an impact on the freshman experience," Wahid said in an interview with *The Tech*. "It was difficult for me to see what good would come out of the class as a whole or my involvement in the class. I wasn't sure if what we were doing was genuine."

Green's email to the class also asked other students to submit their thoughts, so that their collective experiences could be shared with the instructors.

"I had a lot of questions about what educational design is, and Professor Justin Reich provided me with so much help and so many resources. But we weren't really living that in the class; it felt like I was on a different planet. Until I reached out through the survey, I didn't fully realize that other people were going through the same experience," Green said in an interview with *The Tech*.

"This is a complicated and unique class to begin with. And I think that part of that gap [between the students' expectations and the realities of the course] is because these students are so passionate," Moser said. In an initial survey of the students' motives to take the class, the most popular answer was that they wanted to improve MIT.

Both Moser and Maria Yang '91, professor of mechanical engineering, stressed the importance of being able to think about others' needs and opinions during the design process.

"In the face of complex problems, humility is required. At least early on, there is a patience to try to observe not only one's point of view or bias, but to spend some time to really look at others and see where they're coming from, what their needs might be. The first few weeks of the class, we really asked students to set aside that particular thing that they might have come to the class with," Moser said.

DFY is a twelve-unit class in Mechanical Engineering and Comparative Media Studies only offered Spring 2018; it is also a HASS-E and counts towards the design minor. The class is open to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in MIT, and currently has around 50 students.

OPINION OPINION OPINION

CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE

ARTS ARTS ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Pacific Rim Uprising’ is a great smashing movie, but it’s little else

The sequel delivers on its promise to be a good action movie but fails at almost everything else

By Leah Yost
STAFF WRITER

Despite the mixed reviews of the first movie, I happened to like the first *Pacific Rim*. Maybe it was the plot or the jokes, but most likely, it was because the idea of giant robots fighting giant monsters in high definition was pretty cool (Hey, I was in middle school, and that’s an impressionable age).

For those who aren’t familiar with the first installment, the premise of these two movies is that these giant, Godzilla-like creatures called Kaiju are out to destroy the world and humanity’s hope is pinned on skyscraper-tall robots called Jaegers. Jaegers are controlled by two pilots who are neurally linked as one. The sequel begins 10 years after the last film ended victoriously, with the world still recovering from the damage of the Kaiju War.

The film follows Jake Pentacost (John Boyega), the estranged son of the hero of the first war, as he makes a living on the streets and Amara (Cailee Spaeny), a 16-year-old, self-taught Jaeger builder and pilot. The two are dragged into service, as Jake was previously a pilot, and Amara was a new recruit.

Monsters appear and people die, and then the robots defeat them. Usually you can predict an action movie like this pretty easily, but there was one plot twist I didn't see coming, and in terms of an action movie, it did deliver all the exciting fight scenes that fans of the first installment will be looking for.

Yet the plot twist and the action scenes weren’t enough to save this movie. The plot was never really quite there, and when it was, it tended to drag. I couldn’t connect to Amara or Jake, and to some extent, it seemed like Amara was completely unnecessary to the storyline. The idea of a 16-year-old building her own Jaeger seemed too much of a stretch to me, and while I wanted to believe in the underdog, she was just another piece of fluff rather than a full-fledged character.

After having good fight scenes, humor is another key ingredient in action movies, and almost every single joke fell flat. One scene that was supposed to be funny was a conversation between Jake and his copilot over ice cream. Jake uses a ridiculous amount of toppings, which his copilot points out. “Don’t mess with my toppings, man,” Jake replies while stuffing his face with sprinkles. It was absurd to even think that could evoke peals of laughter or even a small chuckle.

It’s a little disappointing that, with this movie, this universe might not get another shot because despite the logical holes (“Sir! There’s giant monsters attacking Tokyo!” “You know what we need? GIANT ROBOTS.”), it’s a fun idea and a fun world to play around with. So, maybe in another five years, I hope there will be another *Pacific Rim*, and this time they spend a little more of that $150 million budget on plot and character development.

★★☆☆☆

Pacific Rim Uprising

Directed by Steven S. DeKnight

Screenplay by Steven S. DeKnight, Emily Carmichael, Kira Snyder, and T.S. Nowlin

Starring John Boyega, Scott Eastwood

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

ALBUM REVIEW

Dancing back tears

U.S. Girls delivers equal measures hope and despair in her current album tour

In A Poem Unlimited

U.S. Girls

4AD

Feb. 16

By Jack Spira

Imagine if Madonna were beamed through that psychedelic prism on the cover of The Dark Side of the Moon and what emerged was a funky, fully-fledged feminist. You’d have a pretty good idea of who Meg Remy is. Following the release of her sixth album under *nom de guerre* U.S. Girls, Remy is currently touring with Toronto-born fusion collective The Cosmic Range, with whom she collaborated extensively on the album. In A Poem Unlimited, their finished product and the highlight of the tour, imbues the coarse texture of social reality with pop and pathos, a feat only enhanced by its live performance. They play Great Scott in Allston on April 12.

Blending rock, funk, disco, jazz, and unbridled pop, Remy uses the swing and bounce of her music to deliver heartrending poetry. Several of her songs inhabit distinct but similar characters, all deeply wronged by structures or individuals (always, if sometimes vaguely, patriarchal ones) more powerful than themselves: “Rage Of Plastics” tells of a woman rendered infertile by her job at an oil refinery; in “Pearly Gates,” another is coerced into sex with a swaggering St. Peter in exchange for entrance to heaven; “Sororal Feelings” (off her previous album, Half Free) gives voice to a woman whose husband married her only after dalliances with each of her sisters. For such socially-minded narrative content, the lyrics, far from prescriptive, are searching: “Was it the river on fire that made us what we became? / Was it the cup that we drank from, or what it contained? / Does it move to the beat of the oil drums / Or flow out of our eyes as we’re wailing?” she sings on the first.

Last week, I had the great fortune — that is to say, the sublime heartbreak — of catching her show in Salt Lake City. The dissonance between the danceable groove of Remy’s music and the tragedy of her lyricism is only heightened in performance. Despite the intimacy of the venue, she didn’t speak a word to the audience all night. Instead, in between songs, Remy would play sound bites of male speakers, remixed to convey messages of ambiguous variance from their original form. “It is encouraging — not to tell women — what to do,” she replayed for us, eyebrow cocked in knowing dissatisfaction, as if to ask, “Must I do it all myself?” At certain key moments, Remy would place herself besides the only other woman onstage, communing with vocalist/guitarist Kassie Richardson in solidarity.

To be transported through Remy’s worldview is to accept the hopelessness of women’s liberation while never ceasing to strive for it. The exuberant sounds of U.S. Girls seduce the listener into the gilded tragedies of her stories even as they provide the bottomless catharsis of dance and the energy to push forward. The show culminated with Remy and Richardson performing a duet to “Poem,” which the record label 4AD dubbed the “emotional core” of the album. “In a poem unlimited we stay / And on a lawless night, lawless night, we wait / Holding our breath, we wait.” Yet the acknowledgement of endless expectation doesn’t for a second temper the earnest call to progress in the final line of the song and the night: “So what are we gonna do to change?”

THEATER REVIEW

A woman in the blue dress

A touching story about the power of meaningful connections through the art of forgery

By Johnson Huynh
STAFF WRITER

Accused of selling a long-lost Vermeer painting to the Nazis, Han van Meegeren (Benjamin Evett) awaits his judgement. When his jailer, Geert Pillar (Laura Latreille), tells him that he would be killed for his treasonous crime, he makes her an irresistible offer. If he can make an exact replica of Vermeer’s “A Woman in a Blue Dress,” he can clear his name and walk away a free man. If not, then Pillar has the right to kill him. Thrilling and nail-biting, *The Bakelite Masterpiece* won’t wait for you to give it your full attention. It steals it away.

Lights creep into the room, revealing prison cells adorned with painting frames. While they do, a violin begins squeaking out notes. It’s unsettling and otherworldly. We see a long stride, a back turned away from us, a beam of light that paints a man in its sickly white; enter Han van Meegeren, the man who fooled the Nazis.

“Why struggle to find your genius when you can take someone else’s?” van Meegeren asks. A wicked smile appears on his face as he looks up from the outlandish stage. Its walls extend out into the audience, forcing us all into the cell with the prisoner. The platform that he stands on appears to lean forwards, as though there is nothing he can hide from us. Under the direction of Cristina Todesco, the scenic designer, the stage appears to detach itself from time to tell a unique story in itself.

A raging narcissist, van Meegeren makes constant references to Lucifer and his descent from Heaven. Almost as if to make himself to also be a tragic figure, he prods the audience into perceiving him as a sort of fallen angel as well. Evett makes a wonderful sociopath in this production. Never have I both hated and loved a character as much as Evett’s van Meegeren. He is cunning, yet flawed and desperate, yet lonely.

But one cannot comment on the strength of the characters without also looking at Geert Pillar, the other character in the play. Latreille takes on the role of an art historian tasked with interrogating van Meegeren on his involvement with the Nazis. She’s absolutely against van Meegeren’s silver tongue.

You’ll want to see these two characters duke it out, letting their wits do the talking. It’s one power struggle after another in this play as Pillar and van Meegeren try to assert their dominance in this tiny prison cell. Nothing extraordinary will interest you in this play because there are no sword fights to be found nor any flashy special effects. However, the mundane things will: the way that Pillar turns away from her prisoner at every turn; the sadness in van Meegeren voice as he talks about how God cast Lucifer into Hell; the way that these two characters need each other more than they care to admit.

It’s incredibly refreshing to see more older roles being shown in performances nowadays. Too often do we see blockbuster movies of modern day Adonises, and it’s not often enough that we see more stories being told by regular people. Even more refreshing is the dimensionality that Latreille possesses with this character. She isn’t an authoritative woman — she’s a real life person with crushed hopes and constant despair. Underneath the tension that defines this work of art is a story about people, one in which hurt people really do hurt people.

To say that this piece is exciting would not do it justice. Real people exist in the walls of that theater room. They get hurt, only to pick themselves up to trudge through another day. They see unspeakable horrors but brush them off in the hopes that tomorrow will be different. And they cling onto the smallest things to give their lives purpose. These are the things that the playwright, Kate Cayley, wants to push onto her audience. Ultimately, this is what Jim Petosa, the director, wants to transmute into another beautiful work of art at the Mosesian Center.

★★★★☆

The Bakelite Masterpiece

Directed by Jim Petosa

Written by Kate Cayley

Mosesian Center for the Arts

March 17–April 8

ARTS ARTS ARTS

ARTS ARTS ARTS

Riyadh

Solution, page 11

3				9	8			
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	3						1	
		9				3	4	2
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7		8			6			
			5	8				1

Jeddah

Solution, page 11

				2		9		
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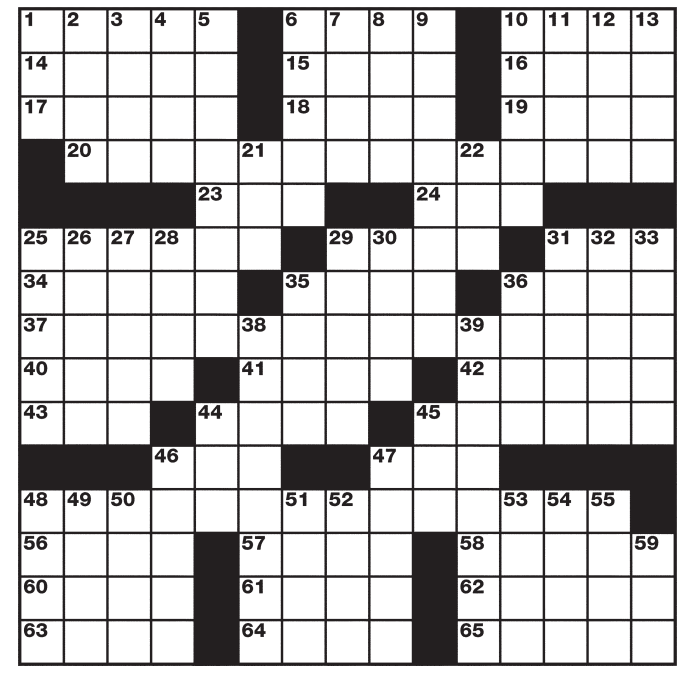
	5		2					
9		6		3		7		8
		3		6				

April Activities by Sandy Fein

Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Mamas' mates
6 Decorate again
10 Tall farm-storage structure
14 From Dublin
15 Molecule part
16 High-school dance
17 Backyard barbecue area
18 Artist Salvador __
19 Fury
20 April's start for Major League games
23 Belonging to that woman
24 Utter aloud
25 Team's good-luck animal
29 Barber's cutting
31 Sharp door knock
34 Academy Award
35 One-person performance
36 Adjust, as a piano
37 Gardener's April digging chores
40 Read, as a bar code
41 Is regretful for
42 Praiseful poet
43 Sweet potato
44 Change for a $20 bill
45 Insurance salespersons
46 Have unpaid bills
47 Pub drink
48 April's annual Massachusetts race
56 Assist in wrongdoing
57 Camper's shelter
58 Rabbits' relatives
60 Several
61 Extremely long time
62 Vote into office
63 __ to the throne (the next to reign)
64 Out of town
65 Chess corner pieces

DOWN
1 Remarkable thing
2 Typical Saudi
3 Middle East pocket bread
4 Without a warranty
5 Device to help get into footwear
6 Speed-checking beam
7 And others: Abbr.
8 Ken or Barbie
9 Something left out
10 Atomizer output
11 401(k) alternatives, for short
12 Corporate symbol
13 Sign of things to come
21 Wager
22 Serving of corn
25 Unlike rolling stones, supposedly
26 Pet protection org.
27 "Get lost!"
28 Abel's older brother
29 Golfers' targets
30 Word said with a sigh
31 Arrest, informally
32 Uneasy feeling
33 Annoying ones
35 Whirled
36 Ocean's rise or fall
38 Chinese restaurant beverage
39 Simultaneously
44 One more than one
45 Pie __ mode

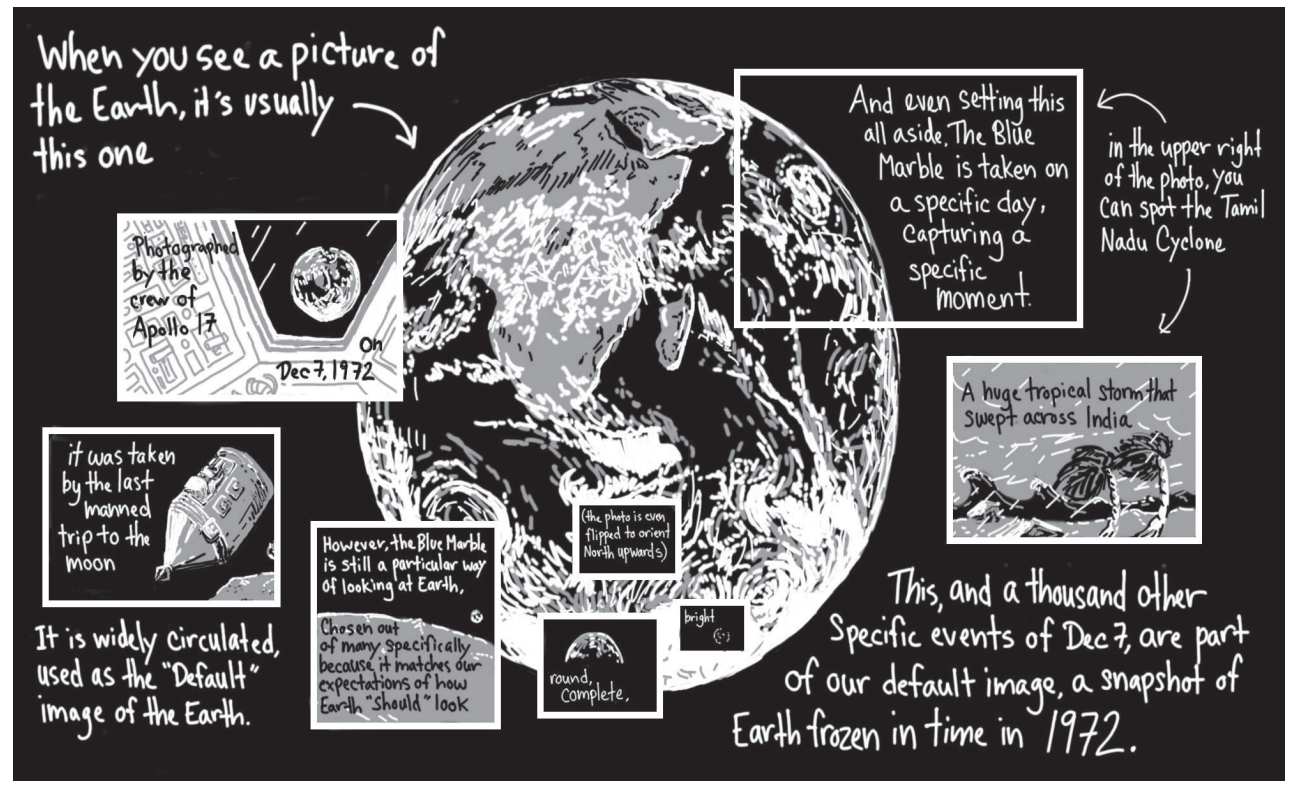


46 Playful aquatic mammal
47 Pretentiously showy
48 Lavish party
49 Woodwind instrument
50 Prefix for circle
51 Cat's cry
52 Tennis pro Kournikova
53 Angel's topper
54 Triple-decker cookie
55 Giraffe's tall feature
59 Roads that may cross avenues: Abbr.

Greenhouse Affect

by Mehitabel Glenhaber

Blue Marble



FUNFUNFUNF

MINDS NOT MISSILES

Reducing the Threat of Nuclear War

SATURDAY
APRIL 7
9AM–5PM
Room 34-101

Sessions:

Cont. Dangers from Nuclear Weapons | 9:30 AM
Int'l Initiatives Toward Disarmament | 10:45 AM
Political Initiatives | 1:30 PM
Campus Organizing for Peace & Justice | 2:30 PM
Actions for the Coming Period | 3:30 PM

Join us to review the dangerous nuclear weapons policies of the Trump administration and consider what concerned citizens, students and faculty can do to reduce the threat.

Sunday planning breakfast:

Student-led session to design and implement programs enhancing existing campus groups, and organizing new ones; extending the network to campuses in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. Email jaking@mit.edu for info

Full list of speakers, lunchtime workshops and more at radius.mit.edu

Register at mindsnotmissiles.brownpapertickets.com

radius • Exploring ethics at the center of science and technology

Co-sponsored by: MIT Radius; American Friends Service Committee; Campaign for Peace, Disarmament, and Common Security; Council for a Livable World; Institute for People's Engagement; and Massachusetts Peace Action

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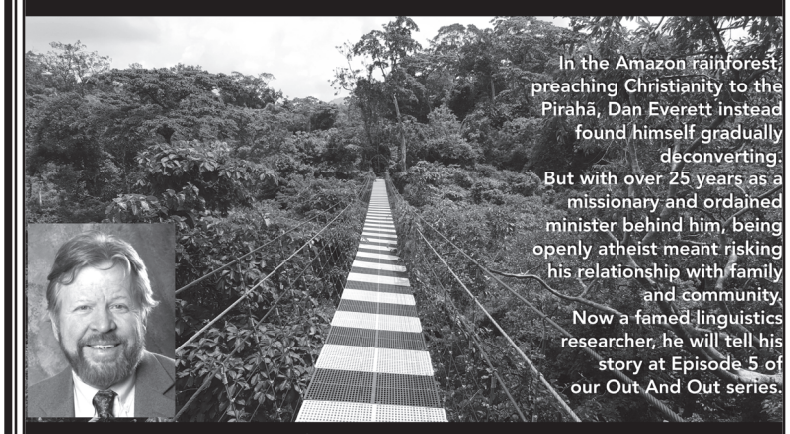
secular society of MIT

Our signature series in support of those leaving religion and being openly irreligious

OUT AND OUT

EPISODE 5

MISSIONARY DECISION


In the Amazon rainforest, preaching Christianity to the Pirahã, Dan Everett instead found himself gradually deconverting.
But with over 25 years as a missionary and ordained minister behind him, being openly atheist meant risking his relationship with family and community.
Now a famed linguistics researcher, he will tell his story at Episode 5 of our Out And Out series.

MON, APR/09 | 7:15PM | 2-190

[free entry | free refreshments] [ssomit.mit.edu]

MIT IV and ACF

SOUL FOOD -&- SEOUL FOOD

April 6 at 7:30 PM
Student Center: Twenty Chimneys

Come experience the beauty of diversity within God's family! MIT-Intervarsity and Asian Christian Fellowship will be hosting a joint large group featuring multiethnic musical worship and food as well as stories discussing faith & multi-ethnicity.

Everyone is welcome! Come hungry, because a diverse dinner (soul food and Korean food) will be served!

Solution to April

from page 9

P	A	P	A	S		R	E	D	O		S	I	L	O
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H	E	I	R		A	W	A	Y		R	O	O	K	S

Solution to Riyadh

from page 9

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7	1	8	3	4	6	9	2	5
4	9	3	5	8	2	6	7	1

Solution to Jeddah

from page 9

3	8	7	1	2	6	9	5	4
5	2	4	9	8	7	1	6	3
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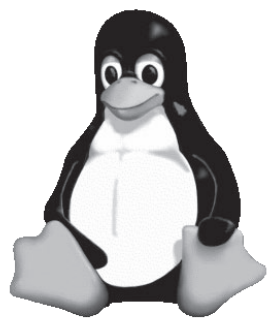

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Job Description

You will be responsible for developing highly optimized solutions for deep learning software/hardware. You'll collaborate with members of the AI community to define and implement the features needed to accelerate Iluvatar's deep learning hardware and solution frameworks. SW hires will be involved in defining public APIs, performance tuning and analysis, crafting and implementing compiler and optimization techniques for neural networks, and other general software engineering work. The scope of HW effort focuses on energy-efficient domain-specific ASIC/SoC architecture, design/verification for Iluvatar's custom deep learning IP and SoC solution.

Qualifications (please specify position, e.g., intern/full-time, SW/HW)

- MS/PhD or equivalent experience in CS, CSE,ECE, EE or related fields.
- Ability to work independently, define project goals and scope, and lead your own development effort.
- Excellent Python, C/C++ programming and software design skills, including debugging, performance analysis, and test design.
- Knowledge of CPU and/or GPU architecture. CUDA or OpenCL programming experience desired.
- Experience with the following technologies is a huge plus: deep learning models and algorithms, deep learning framework design, high performance compiler design, or EDA synthesis and optimization algorithms.
- Familiarity with PyTorch, Caffe, TensorFlow etc. with strong hands on experience is also a big plus.
- Strong communication skills are required along with the ability to work in a dynamic product oriented team. A history of mentoring junior engineers and interns is a bonus.

Company Description

Iluvatar CoreX 天数智芯

Iluvator CoreX Inc. is a China-Silicon Valley-based technology startup founded in 2017. Founding members of the company consists of world class veteran engineers and entrepreneurs in the computer hardware and software industries. Ourmain goal of the company is to deliver open, scalable AI computing platform with extreme performance, to serve the rising computing needs in the AI market. The platform includes but is not limited to ASIC IP Cores/SoC (for both inference and training), system software, computing frameworks, middleware and applications/services. The company has set up offices in the world's most innovative cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Silicon Valley.

The company is looking for strong hardware/software engineers for junior, senior and intern levels to work on deep learning solutions on top of its own customized Deep Learning ASICs/SoCs. The positions with be open for both Sunnyvale, CA and Shanghai, CN. Please submit your resume to: *jobs@iluvatar.ai*

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